

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USINT CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS USUN 0095

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

EO 11652: NA

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SUBJECT: ARAB LEAGUE REP PRESS CONFERENCE

1. ARAB LEAGUE ENVOY CLOVIS MAKSOUD, CURRENTLY ON SPEAKING TOUR OF US TO EXPLAIN ARAB ME POLICY, HELD PRESS CONFERENCE AT UN JAN 14. BELOW ARE MAKSOUD'S PREPARED STATEMENT AND ANSWERS TO UN CORRESPONDENTS' QUESTIONS.
 2. HE IS IN THE UNITED STATES TO CLARIFY THE POSITION ON THE ARAB STATES IN THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT. THE LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES, HE TOLD CORRESPONDENTS, IS EAGER THAT THE PROCESS UNDERTAKEN TODAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST CONCERNING A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT HAVE A MORE INVOLVED UNITED NATIONS PRESENCE.
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RECOGNIZING THAT THE UNITED STATES AND SOVIET UNION

HAVE SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES IN TERMS THAT THEY ARE SUPER POWERS, THE

ARAB STATES ARE EAGER THAT THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND THE UN VIEWS BE REFLECTED IN THE GUARANTEES OF A PEACE SETTLEMENT. THE RECORD OF ISRAEL IS NOT COMPLYING WITH SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS MAKES THE ARAB STATES CONTINUOUSLY SUSPICIOUS OF THE CREDIBILITY OF THE CURRENT UNDERTAKING. THE CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, ANY DISENGAGEMENT, AND FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS MUST BE LINKED WITH A TIMETABLE FOR TOTAL WITHDRAWAL OF ALL OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES; THIS MUST BE CAREFULLY DEFINED, DETERMINED AND SPELLED OUT AS WELL AS GUARANTEED, DR. MASOUD STRESSED. A MORE WEIGHTY UN PRESENCE IN SUCH GUARANTEES IS NECESSARY TO MAKE THE SETTLEMENT CREDIBLE AND ACCEPTABLE.

THE ARAB STATES WELCOME THE ANNOUNCED UNION BETWEEN LIBYA AND TUNISIA. IT FURTHER TESTIFIES TO THE RESILIENCE OF THE FORCES OF UNITY WITHIN THE ARAB NATIONS. DR MAKSOUD SAID HIS MISSION TO THE UNITED STATES IS DEDICATED IN VERY LARGE MEASURE BY THE NEED TO PROMOTE THE DIALOG THAT HAS

BEEN ABSENT IN MANY SECTORS OF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC ON THE ARAB POSITION. THE US VISION OF THE MIDDLE EAST MUST NOT BE CONFINED TO AN ISRAELI OR ZIONIST INTERPRETATION. HE DOES NOT EXPECT TO SEE A "SOMERSAULT" IN AMERICAN POLICY, BUT BELIEVES THE VIEWS OF THE INDEPENDENT STATES OF THE MIDDLE MIDDLE EAST SHOULD BE KNOWN.

Q AND A

IN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS DR MAKSOUD MADE THE FOLLOWING MAJOR POINTS:

--THE ARAB LEAGUE AND THE SUMMIT CONFERENCE DOES NOT REPRESENT UNANIMITY OF OPINION BY THE ARAB STATES BUT RATHER A CONSENSUS. THERE MAY BE DIFFERENCES OF POINTS OF VIEW ON CERTAIN POLICY BUT THERE IS A CONSENSUS ON GENERAL ISSUES SUCH AS THE FACT THAT THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION IS THE SOLE REPRESENTATIVE OF PALESTINIAN OFFICIAL POLICY.

-- THE ARAB STATES SUPPORT EGYPT AND SYRIA IN THE VIEW THAT SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 242 MUST BE IMPLEMENTED IN ALL ITS PARTS INCLUDING TERRITORIAL WITHDRAWAL AND RECOGNITION OF UNCLASSIFIED

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RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE.

-- THE LIFTING OF THE OIL EMBARGO WILL BE IN DIRECT RELATION TO THE MID-EAST PEACE SETTLEMENT.

-- WHILE ALL OF DR. KISSINGER'S EFFORTS IN BRINGING ABOUT A SETTLEMENT IN THE MID-EAST HAVE BEEN WELCOMED, THE ARAB STATES FEEL THEY MUST BE KEPT IN PERSPECTIVE WITH REFERENCE TO THE EXPERIENCE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA WHERE THERE WAS DIPLOMATIC EFFORT THAT IN THE LONG RUN DID NOT ACHIEVE ANYTHING. WHILE SADAT

HAS WELCOMED KISSINGER AND
HELD LONG TALKS IT MUST BE KEPT IN MIND IN THE OVERALL CONTEXT
THAT THE INPUT HAS BEEN FAR MORE THAN THE OUTPUT IN
TERMS OF A PEACE.
MUCH CARE MUST BE TAKEN, IN THE ARAB VIEW, TO TIE UP LOOSE ENDS.
--THE ARAB STATES DO NOT CONDONE ACTS OF TERRORISM THAT
ENDANGER INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL NOR DOES THE PALESTINE LIBERATION
ORGANIZATION.
-- IN THE ARAB VIEW JERUSALEM AS A HOLY PLACE IS AN ARAB CITY
OCCUPIED AFTER 1967, AND WOULD BE INCLUDED IN ANY FINAL AGREEMENT
ON WITHDRAWAL FROM ALL OCCUPIED TERRITORIES.
--FOR THE FUTURE THE LEAGUE BELIEVES AN INSTITUTION WILL
BE NECESSARY THAT ENCOURAGES "HUMAN INTEGRATION" IN THE
MIDDLE EAST, BUT THAT IS A DECISION FOR THE
FUTURE.
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